GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5734
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2002
RECOMMENDATIONS OF TASK FORCE ON CAS
MALYALA RAJAIAH;VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received the report of task force for Conditional Access System;

(b) if so, whether Task Force has recommended to make it mandatory for the cable operators to charge only for the channels the viewers watch and not for a combination of channels;

(c) the details of other suggestions/recommendations made by the Task Force to protect the interest of the viewers;

(d) the number out of them accepted by the Government and the reasons for not accepting all the recommendations;

(e) the steps taken by the Government on the implementation of the accepted suggestions/recommendations;

(f) whether CAS be enforced through the Cable TV Networks;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the time by which the CAS is likely to become functional?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b) to (h): The recommendations of the Task Force include, inter-alia, mandating the viewing of Pay channels through a Conditional Access System, by amending the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995. The recommendations of the Task Force have, generally, been accepted by the Government. Various issues involved in the introduction of the System are being examined in consultation with the concerned Ministries of the Government of India. No time-frame can, however, be indicated for the System to become operational.